



Mishawaka Communicator



Working together to build the "Best Hometown in America" by delivering exceptional services, promoting safe and clean neighborhoods, elevating the quality of life, and inspiring pride in our community.

Dave Wood, Mayor

www.mishawaka.in.gov

August 2013

A Letter from Mayor Dave Wood



There are many "housecleaning" topics that pop up from time to time in the Princess City so I would like to use this letter to address a few of them.

TALL WEED AND GRASS SEASON

First of all, I would like to offer a special thanks to our Mishawaka residents for maintaining their property and regularly mowing their lawns this summer. With so much rain, we know that it has been a challenge to keep up with mowing. We are now in the midst of tall weeds and grass season and Code Enforcement Officers have begun to address overgrowth issues in our alleyways. Code would like to remind you that residents are responsible for maintaining grass and brush in the alleys, curbs and sidewalks. Neglecting to maintain these can lead to vehicle damage and restrict trash and utility vehicle access through alleyways. Please place cut brush or branches in trash bags or bundle them in manageable four-foot sections so they can be removed by the City's trash contractor, Republic Services. Trimmings should be placed at the same location where your trash gets placed for removal. You may also take trimmings at no charge to the Mishawaka Environmental Center located at 1105 E. Fifth Street. The center is open Tuesday thru Saturday, 8:30am until 3:15pm. Questions regarding any of these issues can be answered by contacting the Mishawaka Code Enforcement Department between the hours of 7:30am to 4:45pm Monday through Friday at (574) 258-1612 or contact them on the web at <http://mishawaka.in.gov/codeenforcement>.

RECYCLING PROGRAM A HUGE SUCCESS

We are seeing great value in our new recycle bins based off of initial data that we are receiving. It has not been an easy transition for some, but the program is already proving to be an overwhelming success. I have had some complaints, especially on the size of the new bins, but I have also heard many compliments as well. (continued on next page)



Breathe Easy: Relief for Severe Asthma

Health Information from Saint Joseph Regional Medical Center

Have you or a loved one frequently missed work or school, or even needed to visit the emergency room on a re-occurring basis due to severe asthma? If so, you may be interested in a new, non-drug, outpatient procedure offered at Saint Joseph Regional Medical Center called bronchial thermoplasty. Bronchial thermoplasty is a FDA -approved procedure for the treatment of severe, persistent asthma in patients 18 years and older whose asthma is not well controlled with inhaled corticosteroids or long-acting beta-agonists.

Performed under moderate sedation or light anesthesia, this minimally invasive bronchoscopic procedure is performed by a trained physician. The procedure is performed in three outpatient visits, scheduled approximately three weeks apart, each treating a different area of the lungs. After all three procedures are performed, the bronchial thermoplasty treatment is complete.

For more information or to find out if you may be a candidate for bronchial thermoplasty speak with your primary care physician.



UPCOMING EVENTS!

Summer Concert Series 2013

Battell Park Bandshell

Mondays 7:00-8:00pm

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| Aug 5 | Gene Van w/Vince Del Prete and Jim Bolero |
| Aug 12 | Michiana Concert Band |
| Aug 19 | Pat Heiden Quartet
<i>(fireworks following the concert)</i> |
| Aug 26 | Annual Harvest Dance |

Beutter Park

Thursdays 6:30-8:30pm

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| Aug 1 | River City Band |
| Aug 8 | Top Secret |
| Aug 15 | TBA (Potential Rain Date) |
| Aug 22 | Last Call |
| Aug 29 | Out By 8 |

Eberhart Deck

Fridays 8:00-9:30pm

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| Aug 9 | Ron Wiggins Quartet |
| Aug 16 | Billy Nicks Trio |
| Aug 23 | Acoustic Justice |
| Aug 30 | Ground Control |

Family Movie Night

Movie begins at dusk

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| Aug 19 | "Casablanca"
<i>(Battell Park Bandshell)</i> |
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A Letter from Mayor Dave Wood (continued)

Whatever your opinion on the bins, one thing is for sure...they are being used. Since "rolling out" the bins on April 1, the recycling tonnage for the second quarter of 2013 reflected an increase of roughly 25% when compared to the same quarter of 2012. This equates to over 162 tons, or 324,000 lbs. of waste that has been diverted from landfills in order to be recycled. The new bins and automated curbside pickup have accomplished our goal of increasing usage and efficiency, reducing trash in our alleys and perhaps most importantly, keeping the cost of service down and making it more affordable for our residents.

FIRE HYDRANT SAFETY

With the recent heat wave, we have seen some illegal use of fire hydrants. We urge our customers to notify the Mishawaka Water Division if they see any unauthorized use of our fire hydrants. Illegally opening hydrants can put residents at risk, wastes water and costs money. According to our Rules and Regulations: ***"No person, other than members of the fire Department, and those authorized by the Utility, shall open any public hydrant, or attempt to draw water from the same, or use any water drawn from the same, or in any manner, interfere with any such hydrants. A violation of this rule may subject the offender to criminal action and to civil liability."***

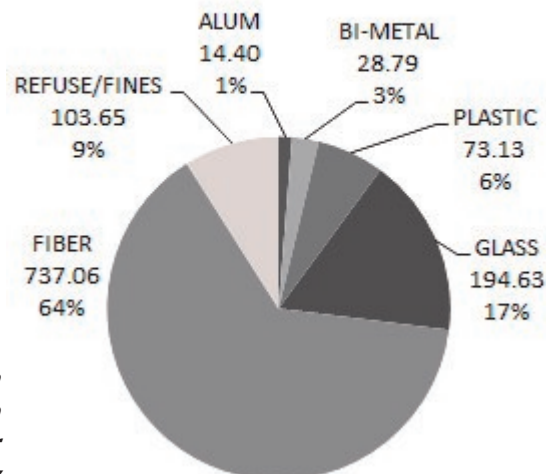
The misuse of fire hydrants or hydrant abuse can result in:

- Injury, death, or property damage due to hampered firefighting efforts.
- Dangerous road conditions - Visibility can be significantly hampered when driving through water. Also the pressure of the water from the hydrant could push a small child in the way of an oncoming vehicle.
- Low water pressure can disrupt water service to homes, hospitals, schools and businesses in the immediate area.
- May cause flooding to nearby basements
- 1,000 gallons of water per minute is what we lose and is wasted when someone misuses a fire hydrant. ***Any person found tampering with fire hydrants will be billed for the water loss.***

The Mishawaka Water Division asks that you call (574) 258-1652 with the location of the hydrant at any time when you observe someone using a fire hydrant illegally.

Mayor Paul

2013 Recycling Report January - June (tons)



GOVERNMENT IN ACTION

Mercury Pollutant Minimization Program Plan (PMPP)

New EPA regulations have placed extremely low limits on mercury discharges from wastewater treatment plants. While Mishawaka's Wastewater Treatment Plant removes over 90% of the mercury that flows into the facility, it still has effluent mercury levels greater than the recently adopted limits. The purpose of the Pollutant Minimization Program to help educate citizens, businesses and industries about mercury and how they can reduce the amount of mercury that they discharge to the treatment plant.

Mercury, in its most recognizable form, is a heavy, silvery metal that is liquid at room temperature. This liquid metal form emits invisible, odorless, toxic vapors. Examples of products that contain mercury include electrical tilt switches, thermostats, certain batteries, dental amalgam, laboratory thermometers and barometers. Fluorescent lamps and compact fluorescent lights (CFLs) manufactured today also contain a small amount of mercury sealed within the glass tubing. Organic compounds such as fungicides and herbicides also contain forms of mercury, as do preservatives or anti-fouling agents for seed, latex paint, paper products, medicines, vaccines and cosmetics.

Proper disposal of items or compounds containing mercury is beneficial to our environment and public health. These items and compounds should not be put in the garbage or poured down the drain but rather should be recycled or disposed of in an environmentally friendly manner. Some area hardware stores will accept small CFLs for recycling at no charge. For residents of St. Joseph County, the Solid Waste Management District's Household Hazardous Waste Facility will accept mercury and mercury-containing products at its Mishawaka facility. Find more info online at <http://mishawaka.in.gov/wastewater>.